

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, a replacement formal drawing has been provided for Figure 4 which labels this figure as --Prior Art--.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make editorial changes thereto and generally improve the form thereof, and a substitute specification and abstract are provided. The objections to the abstract and the disclosure are believed to have been addressed by the substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added by the substitute specification and abstract.

In response to the claim objection and 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection, please note that claims 1-4 have been replaced by new claims 5-24. Claims 5-24 have been drafted taking into account the bases for this objection and rejection, are believed to be free of the concerns raised by the Examiner, and are otherwise believed to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The instant invention pertains to a wire holder for holding a live high-voltage wire at an isolating central space, which space is to be inaccessible to any surrounding wire or parts. Such a wire holder is generally known in the art, but suffers from drawbacks as expressed on pages 1-2 of the original specification. Applicant has addressed and resolved these drawbacks by developing a unique wire holder that is closeable so as to prevent a wire, held by the wire holder, from traveling into the central space and coming into contact with the high-voltage wire, and also to prevent the high-voltage wire from escaping from the central space.

Specifically, with reference to Figures 1 and 2 for example, the inventive wire holder comprises a ring 11 having a first opening along a periphery thereof, a central hub 12 having a second opening along a periphery thereof, spokes 15a and 15b extending from the second opening toward the first opening so as to define a radial passage 17, and an extra space 19 in communication with the first opening. As is shown in Figure 3, for example, when the ring 11 is closed the spokes 15a and 15b approach one another such that a live high-voltage wire 24 is confined within the central hub 12, and such that additional wires 25 are confined within the extra space 19. Accordingly, the wire

holder can securely simultaneously hold a live high-voltage wire and plural lead wires in a separated fashion. Claim 5 is believed to be representative of the inventive wire holder.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yonezawa. Yonezawa is not applicable with regard to the newly added claims for the following reasons.

Claim 5 recites

A wire holder comprising:
a ring having a first opening along a periphery thereof, said first opening being adapted to be closed;
a central hub having a second opening along a periphery thereof, said central hub defining a central space for allowing a high-voltage lead wire to be fit thereinto;
spokes extending from said second opening and defining a radial passage for allowing said central space to communicate with an exterior of said ring; and
an extra space for accommodating therein another lead wire, said extra space being **in communication with said first opening**, and said extra space being adapted to be closed. (emphasis added)

Accordingly, the wire holder as recited in claim 5 requires that the extra space is in communication with the opening along the periphery of the ring. This is shown in Figure 1, for example, where extra space 19 and the opening along the periphery of the ring 11 are shown to be in communication with one another. The significance of having this extra space 19 be in communication with the opening along the periphery of the ring is that additional wires 25 can easily be stored within this extra space so as to be securely separated from a live high-voltage wire 24 in the central space of the central hub 12.

A wire holder having such an extra space is not taught or suggested by Yonezawa. In this regard, Yonezawa discloses a spacer for mounting a lead wire that includes a ring, central hub, spokes, and extra space as expressed by the Examiner. However, the extra space (at 6), though being adapted to be closed, is not in communication with the opening at the diametrically opposite side of the ring due to none of the spokes or central hub (4a-4c) having any slits or openings therein that would allow the extra space to be in communication the aforementioned opening of the ring. Thus, claim 5 is not anticipated by Yonezawa, whereby claims 5-24 are allowable over Yonezawa.

Additionally, certain of the dependent claims are believed to be patentable in their own right.

In this regard, claim 18 recites that the extra space is defined by a sub-spoke and an arcuate portion of the ring. This is shown in Figure 2, for example, where the extra space 19 is defined by sub-spoke 18 and an arcuate portion of the ring. There is no sub-spoke in Yonezawa that cooperates with an arcuate portion of the ring to form the extra space of Yonezawa. Thus, claim 18 is patentable in its own right.

The subject matter of claim 22 is also not taught or suggested by Yonezawa. In this regard, claim 22 requires that the radial passage and the extra space are each adapted to be closed by having the spokes approach one another. To the contrary, in Yonezawa, upon movement of the spokes 2c and 2d towards one another the radial passage 5 therebetween is closed, but the extra space is opened. The extra space is only closed, as shown in Figure 5, when the spokes 2c and 2d are moved away from one another. Thus, claim 22 is patentable in its own right.

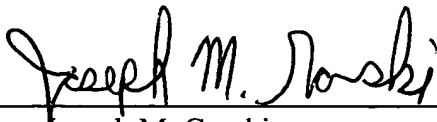
Finally, the barrier piece as recited in claim 24 is not taught or suggested by Yonezawa. This barrier piece is shown as element 20 in the figures, for example. Thus, claim 24 is also patentable in its own right.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 29, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

A Replacement Formal Drawing for Figure 4 has been filed concurrently.